

Program Notice

FGIS PN-05-05

05-15-05

SAMPLE COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VERIFYING
THE ACCURACY OF MOISTURE METER CALIBRATIONS
CROP YEAR 2005

1. PURPOSE

This program notice transmits revised assignments for collecting samples needed for verifying the accuracy of official moisture meter calibrations. It also restates the procedure for collecting and submitting samples.

2. BACKGROUND

The annual Moisture Meter Calibration Study is conducted on current year crop samples to assess the accuracy of the official inspection system and of NTEP-certified moisture meters. FGIS moisture meter calibrations must be verified over the working moisture ranges, significant production areas, and relevant crop years. Each year, the evaluation is performed on samples submitted to the Inspection Systems Engineering Branch (ISE) from the field offices. After moisture testing, the samples are made available to other programs in the Technical Services Division.

Sample collection assignments for the respective offices are based on crop production within the geographic areas of responsibility. In some cases, additional assignments in the stable moisture ranges are given to export locations. Also, the quotas for corn, soybean and Hard Red Winter wheat are increased slightly to provide enough samples for the NTEP testing program.

It is understood that all requested moisture levels may not be available in all areas every year. Since a wide moisture range is very important to the study, field offices should make all reasonable efforts to provide the requested number of samples in each moisture range. However, extraordinary actions are not expected.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This program notice is effective upon receipt for the 2005 crop production. Wheat samples should be submitted by September 15, sunflower samples by November 15, and all other grain samples by November 1, 2005.

4. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This program notice supersedes FGIS PN 04-12, dated May 1, 2004.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

The collection and submission of samples for the annual Moisture Meter Calibration Study are considered regular duties of the selected field offices. All associated time will be charged to the field office standardization management code.

6. ASSIGNMENTS FOR SELECTED FIELD OFFICES

During the 2005 growing season, the indicated numbers of samples of the commodities listed in Table 1 (Attachment 2) must be collected, tested for moisture, and submitted by the respective field offices to ISE. Each sample should weigh approximately 1500 grams.

7. INSTRUCTIONS

- a. The purpose of this effort is to obtain representative samples from the entire nation. Therefore, it is important to have each office fill its quota at all moisture levels, if possible. However, do not submit extra samples in any moisture range, and do not adjust the moisture level of samples by adding water or by drying in the laboratory.
- b. Samples with moisture levels slightly beyond the established moisture ranges are useful in calibrating the extreme ends of the calibrations and extending the measurement ranges. For this reason, the ranges of requested samples (Table 1) have been extended slightly beyond established limits. When submitting samples, if the moisture falls outside the range of the applicable GAC 2100 calibration, obtain an approximate moisture. The true moisture will later be determined at ISE by air oven.
- c. If dockage is removed for inspection purposes, do not recombine it before submitting the sample.
- d. Significant amounts of time and effort are invested in collecting and submitting the moisture samples. This investment can easily be lost through insect damage, microbial spoilage, or late sample submission. To prevent such loss, please collect the samples during the growing season and at harvest time and submit them promptly. Then, the remaining time until the closing date is still available for submitting those samples which are difficult to obtain.

Samples above 16 percent moisture (above 14% for sunflower seeds and 11% for minor oilseeds) require special handling. A significant number of high-moisture samples are routinely lost by spoilage due to unexpected delays in transportation. To minimize this loss, use the following precautions:

- (1) Keep high moisture samples refrigerated (not frozen) until shipped. Hold them no longer than 1 week before shipping.
 - (2) Ship high-moisture samples by Federal Express (or the current FGIS contract carrier) at least 48 hours before a weekend/holiday.
- e. An easy way to account for samples submitted is to prepare mailing tags for the total number of samples of each commodity to be collected. Write on the back of each tag the commodity and moisture range. When all of the mailing tags are used, the required number of samples have been submitted.
- f. Some offices have inquired why sample test weight is requested on the mailing tag. Most dielectric moisture meters have a built-in test weight correction. These corrections need to be checked using external test weight data. For samples of sufficient volume, test weight will be determined by ISE so it is not necessary to record test weight on the mailing tag. However, some submitted samples are too small to fill the kettle. For such samples, please record the test weight on the tag (or transmittal slip) if it is known.
- g. Questions concerning these instructions should be directed to Patricia Jackson (816) 891-0450. If there is a special problem with a sample assignment, please notify the Moisture Laboratory, ISE, by telephone as early in the season as possible.
- h. Seal each sample in a polyethylene bag (6 mil thickness). Insert the bag into a canvas grain bag. When shipping several samples in a larger container (box or mail sack), a canvas grain bag around each poly bag is still needed to prevent the poly bags from breaking in transit. Record the field office location, date, commodity, official meter moisture, and test weight (if sample size is limited) on the back of the mailing tag accompanying the sample. (If preferred, the transmittal form [Attachment 1] may be used and shipped with the sample. Insert the transmittal form between the poly bag and the canvas grain bag.) Attach the mailing tag to the bag. Send samples to:

USDA-GIPSA-FGIS Technical Center
Technical Services Division
Moisture Laboratory
10383 N. Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153-1394

/s/ David Orr

David Orr, Director
Field Management Division

Attachments

Moisture Sample Transmittal Form

Field Office Use Only:

OFFICE _____ MOISTURE _____

DATE _____ TEST WT. _____

COMMODITY _____

ISE Use Only: *Date Received*

Moisture Sample Transmittal Form

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Table 1. Sample collection assignments, 2005 Crop Year

1. Barley, Six-Rowed	Office	Moisture Range (%)						
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>		
	California	2	2	2	1	7		
	Grand Forks	8	8	8	7	31		
	Minneapolis	2	3	3	2	10		
	Moscow	3	3	3	3	12		
	Toledo	2	3	3	2	10		
2. Barley, Two-Rowed	Office	Moisture Range (%)						
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>		
	Grand Forks	6	7	6	6	25		
	Moscow	8	10	9	7	34		
	Washington	3	3	3	2	11		
3. Corn	Office	Moisture Range (%)						
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-18</u>	<u>18-22</u>	<u>22-26</u>	<u>26-31</u>	<u>All</u>
	Cedar Rapids	10	10	14	9	9	9	61
	Grand Forks	3	4	6	4	4	3	24
	League City	1	2	2	2	2	1	10
	Minneapolis	7	8	10	8	7	6	46
	New Orleans	2	3	3	0	0	0	8
	Stuttgart	3	4	4	3	2	2	18
	Toledo	6	7	10	7	6	6	42
	Wichita	14	15	16	15	14	12	86
4. Oats	Office	Moisture Range (%)						
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>		
	Cedar Rapids	5	5	5	4	19		
	Grand Forks	8	8	8	7	31		
	Minneapolis	10	11	10	9	40		

Attachment 2
FGIS PN-05-05

5. Rough Rice, Long Grain	Office	Moisture Range (%)					
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-18</u>	<u>18-22</u>	<u>22-26</u>	<u>All</u>
	League City	3	4	4	3	3	17
	New Orleans	5	5	5	5	4	24
	Stuttgart	10	10	10	10	9	49

6. Rough Rice, Medium Grain	Office	Moisture Range (%)					
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-18</u>	<u>18-22</u>	<u>22-26</u>	<u>All</u>
	California	11	12	13	11	10	57
	New Orleans	2	2	2	1	1	8
	Stuttgart	5	6	6	4	4	25

7. Sorghum	Office	Moisture Range (%)					
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-18</u>	<u>18-22</u>	<u>22-26</u>	<u>All</u>
	League City	5	5	5	5	4	24
	New Orleans	2	3	2	0	0	7
	Stuttgart	2	3	2	0	0	7
	Wichita	10	10	9	8	6	43

8. Soybeans	Office	Moisture Range (%)				
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>
	Cedar Rapids	11	11	10	9	41
	Grand Forks	6	6	6	6	24
	League City	2	2	0	0	4
	Minneapolis	8	8	7	6	29
	New Orleans	4	4	2	2	12
	Stuttgart	6	6	5	5	22
	Toledo	9	9	8	8	34
	Wichita	15	15	13	13	56

9. Sunflower Seed, Oil Type	Office	Moisture Range (%)						
		<u>4-7</u>	<u>7-10</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>14-18</u>	<u>18-22</u>	<u>22-26</u>	<u>All</u>
	Grand Forks	15	16	16	15	15	14	91
	Wichita	6	8	7	7	6	5	39

10. Wheat, Durum	Office	Moisture Range (%)				
		<u>6-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>
	Duluth	2	2	2	0	6
	Grand Forks	10	10	10	9	39
	Moscow	2	3	2	2	9

11. Wheat, Hard Red Spring	Office	Moisture Range (%)				
		<u>6-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>
	Duluth	2	3	0	0	5
	Grand Forks	8	9	9	8	34
	Minneapolis	3	4	3	3	13
	Moscow	4	5	5	4	18
	Washington	2	2	1	1	6

12. Wheat, Hard Red Winter	Office	Moisture Range (%)				
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>
	California	2	2	3	1	8
	Grand Forks	2	3	5	1	11
	League City	3	3	2	0	8
	Moscow	3	4	3	1	11
	Wichita	14	15	14	10	53

13. Wheat, Hard White	Office	Moisture Range (%)				
		<u>6-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>
	California	7	7	6	5	25
	Moscow	6	6	6	5	23
	Washington	4	4	4	3	15
	Wichita	4	4	2	2	12

14. Wheat, Soft Red Winter	Office	Moisture Range (%)				
		<u>6-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>
	Cedar Rapids	2	2	2	2	8
	New Orleans	3	3	2	1	9
	Stuttgart	3	4	3	2	12
	Toledo	6	6	6	5	23
	Wichita	3	4	4	3	14

Attachment 2
FGIS PN-05-05

15. Wheat, Soft White	Office	Moisture Range (%)				
		<u>7-11</u>	<u>11-14</u>	<u>14-17</u>	<u>17-21</u>	<u>All</u>
	Moscow	6	6	6	5	23
	Portland	3	3	2	0	8
	Toledo	3	3	3	0	9
	Washington	8	9	8	6	31

Moisture ranges for the following samples should reflect typical market levels. The samples should represent diverse growing conditions.

16. Beans, Black	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	Grand Forks	5
	Minneapolis	5
	Moscow	5
	Toledo	5

17. Beans, Blackeye	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	California	10
	Wichita	10

18. Beans, Cranberry	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	California	10
	Minneapolis	10

19. Beans, Garbanzo	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	California	5
	Grand Forks	5
	Moscow	5
	Washington	5

20. Beans, Great Northern	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	Moscow	10
	Wichita	10

21. Beans, Kidney (Light and Dark)	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	California		5
	Grand Forks		5
	Minneapolis		5
	Toledo		5
	Wichita		5
22. Beans, Baby Lima	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	California		10
23. Beans, Large Lima	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	California		10
24. Beans, Pea (Navy)	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	Grand Forks		10
	Minneapolis		10
	Toledo		10
25. Beans, Pink	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	California		5
	Duluth		5
	Grand Forks		5
	Moscow		5
	Washington		5
26. Beans, Pinto	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	Grand Forks		10
	Moscow		10
	Wichita		10

Attachment 2
FGIS PN-05-05

27. Beans, Small Red	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	Grand Forks		5
	Moscow		5
	Toledo		5
	Washington		5
28. Canola	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	Duluth		10
	Grand Forks		10
	Washington		10
29. Flaxseed	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	Cedar Rapids		10
	Grand Forks		10
	Minneapolis		10
30. Lentils	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	Moscow		10
	Washington		10
31. Mustard Seed, Yellow	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	Grand Forks		10
	Moscow		10
	Washington		10
32. Peas, Smooth Dry	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>	
	Grand Forks		10
	Moscow		10
	Washington		10

33. Rice, Long Grain Brown	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	League City	10
	New Orleans	10
	Stuttgart	10
34. Rice, Long Grain Milled	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	League City	10
	New Orleans	10
	Stuttgart	10
35. Rice, Medium Grain Brown	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	League City	5
	New Orleans	5
	California	10
	Stuttgart	5
36. Rice, Medium Grain Milled	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	League City	5
	New Orleans	5
	California	10
	Stuttgart	5
37. Rice, Short Grain Rough	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	California	10
38. Rye	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	Grand Forks	5
	Minneapolis	5
	Toledo	5
	Wichita	5

Attachment 2
FGIS PN-05-05

39. Safflower Seed	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	California	10
	Wichita	10
40. Sunflower Seed, Confectionary	Office	<u>Number of Samples</u>
	Grand Forks	5
	League City	5
	Minneapolis	5
	Wichita	5